# FATHERS OF OIL.

They Invented Casing, Jars and

DOWN IN THE KANAWHA VALLEY

David and Jeseph Ruffner and William Contributed Three Things to the Oil Well Driller-Discovered Off, bur Did Not Realize Its Value, as They Were

letter to the Pittsburgh Times: To the in the oil country, a visit-to the valley of a devout Mohammedan to the shrine of Mecen. For the history of the oilcountry begins here in the valley long before petroleum became a merchantable commodity, and the methods of its production antedate the production

Charleston, to tell two stories at one time, enjoys the comforts of natural The fluid comes from the old territory, once famous as the "Kanawha Salines." Here was located the celebra-ted sait wells of the Kanawha valley, reputed to produce an unsur-

justiv reputed to produce an unsur-passed quality of table salt, yet destin-ed to become more renowned in history because, here originated as well the devices which have since been perfected and applied wherever a well is drilled in the production of oil.

Before the day of the white man the Indans made salt at the saline springs of the Kanawha valley. So long ago as 1775 General Washington, who was awarded some lands in the valley for his military services, came over to the

of the Kanawha vailey. So long ago as 1775 General Washington, who was awarded some lands in the vailey for his military services, came over to, the Kanawha to locate his awards. Of the tract diat he then took up he deeded to the public forever an acre on which was located a mysterious burning spring. From the vicinity of this burning spring, From the vicinity of this burning spring comes the gas which more than a century late has been made to serve the people of Charleston for fuel, after wasting through all this time. As the white settlers penetrated the vailey they paid small attention to Washington's burning spring, except to look at it with curiosity, and for seventy-five years it was more of a wonder than almost any other thing in Western Virginia. But in the same territory on which the mysterious spring burned continuously were the sait springs that absolute need and, later, the desire for gain turned to profit.

The sait springs are located a short distance above Charleston, and were so attractive to wild game before they were even worked by the whites that hunters frequented the springs to kill the deer and other wild creatures that awarmed in the neighborhood. Daniel Boone had made a log cabin home not far from the springs, and lived in the region long enough to be elected to the Virginia legislature in 1791 from the newly formed Kanawha country. To-day the Ruffners are among the leading spirits of Charleston. It is one hundred and two years ago that Joseph Ruffner, filled with the tidings of the splendid springs of salt beyond the mountains, sold his possessions in the Shenandoah valley and set out for the west to establish himself as a sait marker on the Kanawha, where he had already bought the tract which included the Kanawha, where he had already bought the tract which included the Kanawha, where he had already bought the tract which included the Kanawha, where he had already the Kanawha, where he had already the time. Ruffner leased the right to make sait to Elisha Brooks, and presently he died.

men with whom this history deals.

Brooks made salt enough to prove
the excellence of the stuff, taking bls
brine from the shallow quick sands of
the springs. When Joseph and David
Ruffner came to the possession of their
father's lands they became persuaded
of the need of a better way to get the
brine.

well driller has used since their The first piece of casing used partion of a hollow sycamore tree, about four feet in diameter. This hollow timber was sunk in the quick-

a short distance from the springs in hope of finding the brine in a place not bothered by the quicksand. But it was found necessary to case again. So they made a small casing of a piece of oak tree through which a hole had been bored as the pump log makers here a hole, with a long auger.

The Ruffners had laid the foundation for the development of the modern casing. But they found themselves confronted with another dilema. At the bottom of the holes they made they encountered rock, through which their tools that would penetrate the carth would not cut. So a chisel like drill was designed, and fixed to the end of a rope attached to a spring pole. They were progressing, and with that drill they punched their salt well into the rock and found the pure strong brine they sought. Their efforts were so far rewarded that persistence was compelled, and they built their boiling furnaces.

But they had not reached the end of

rewarded that persistence was compelied, and they built their hoiling furnaces.

But they had not reached the end of
their, troubles, nor finished their inventions, for the oil man who was to come
after them. For a tubing through the
rock to fit the hole made by the drilt
the big oak log was found impossible.
Therefore, small srips of wood were
fashioned and wrapped the entire distance with twine, just as we might
take the hickory rims of the bicycle
wheel, straighten them out, place the
hollows together, and by wrapping
with twine make a tube. Subsequently
a tinner made tin tubing, which answered the purpose for a long time. With
their crude appliances they found that
the weak brine close to the surface
was mixed with the stronger brine
from below, so the tubing was wrapped with some bagging so tightly as to
fill the hole around it. This served in a
measure, but not entirely. Then the
Ruffner brothers made the seed bag, a
leyiee, which is one of the mainstays
of the oil man. The seed bag is a soft
leather pouch placed around the tubing.
It is filled with flaxseed, and when
the tube around which it is fastened, is
placed in the hole, the water, coming
in contact with the flaxseed swells the
seed, which expands until the hole is
shut tight, and impervious to water
from above.

William Morris and the Jars.

William Morris and the Jars. With this much the salt well driller had made a great stride in the matter of sinking wells in the earth, but he of sinking wells in the earth, but he found that his drill was not wholly satisfactory. It would not hit a hard enough blow from the end of a taut cable. It would fasten itself in the hole, and was loosened with difficulty. Then some skyly-five years ago, William Morris, whose name deserves to be perpetuated by oil well men, a practical and bright well-driller, invented the contrivance known as the "jara." With the jara deep drilling was made possible, and the sait men began to go down to a depth of 1,000 feet or more, which proved the limit of the brine. A singular feature about the experi-ence of these Kanawha valley oil well

plone vs is that they were not only the first t) make use of all three oil well necessi, ties, the casing, the seed bag and the far, t but that they were the first people. In this country to drill holes to produce oil. While they were searching for Lyine they found oil in nearly every dee 2 hole drilled, and in some of the wells to much that it was an abomination. A t much as twenty-five barrels a day is supposed to have been produced by 1 some of the most troublesome oil weils, nearly ruining the brine at times. The gas found in the holes was also a t youblesome pest, until in 1841. William Tompkins conceived the idea of using it for fuel. After that some of the gas was used, but much was wasted, ju. et as it has been everywhere.

was wasted, fp. et as it has been everywhere.
The possibilities of this section of the
country, and the manner in which all
were thrown aw wp, is one of the surprising things in the gradual development of human i uffairs. Years before
Pennsylvania of I wells had been
thought of, the sa it men of the Kanawha valley were frilling what to-day
would be oil wells, but these men, instead of pumping of Y the salt water and
saving the oil, as is tone so extensiveling in West Virginia, a now, were wasting the oil and saving the salt water.
They were wasting the gas that is the
best known fuel, ign oring the deposits
of coal that are bringing a fortune to
thee operators of the valley now, and
boiling their salt water with wood, the
most expensive and the least saltsfactory fuel of the valley. But that's the
way humanity works. The men who
rushed into Galifornia, drove their ox
wagons past the big, bonanzas of the
Constock lode, and the men who later wagons past the big.

#### HIS WIFE DIDN'T COBJECT.

Could Play Poker All Night if He Wanted

Chicago Times-Herald: "Really, boys, I have to quit," sald the man with the

I have to quit," said the man with the biggest stack of chips in front of him, as he gathered in another jack pot.

"Oh, come off; that's not square," declared the biggest loner.

"Why?"

"You've got all the chips. Aren't you going to give the rest of us a show?"

"That's not it, You know I don't care for your money, but—"

"You're getting it."

"Maybe I am. IBut I really must quit, You see, I am married. You fellows are single, It is 12 o'clock now, and if I don't get home I will be in a pretty mess. As it is, I expect to fina my mother-in-law and my wife waiting for me. You are not married."

"I am," declared the man whose luck had just returned.

had just returned.

And you are going to play all night?"
"If I want to"
"And drink?"

"Bet your life." 'And smoke?"

'And smoke?"
"Cert.
"Your wife won't say anything to you when you go home?"
"Not a word."
"Doesn't she object to your playing poker, drinking and smoking all night?"
"Oh, I don't know. I am not worrying about it. Stay all night!"
"There; you see it's a bluff!" declared the biggest loser.
"It's all very well for Harvey to talk about the way he has his wife trained, but I can't do it," rejoined the man with the biggest stack of chips, "but I tell you what I will do. I'll give my stack if he will tell me how he manages it."
"Done!" cried the man whose luck had turned, as he reached for them. "My wife is out of town visiting some friends."

## Overtime to Letter Carries.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 23.—The system of allowing over time claims of letter carriers throughout the country will be practically abolished soon. This is in accordance with the policy begun by First Assistant Postmaster General Jones at the beginning of his administration. At that time claims for extracompensation for over time in work were accumulating at the rate of 70,000 hours a month. This source of great expense to the service has been steadily diminished and the reports for October show that the amount for that month was only one hundred and eighty-six hours for regular letter carriers and one hundred thirty-seven hours for substitutes. The department regards the over-time in nine cases out of ten as unnecessary and Mr. Jones says it will do away with over-time altogether save in rare cases where there is actual necessity. is actual necessity

## Alabama Feels the Boom.

Alabama Feels the Boom.

FLORENCE, Ala., Nov. 23.—The Sheffleld Furnaces are enjoying a season of great presperity. Following closely upon the large order for 4,000 tons of pig iron received by the Sheffeld Coal. Iron and Steel Company, comes the information that the Colbert Iron Company, on yesterday shipped twenty carloads of pig iron to eastern manufacturers. Preparations are being made to put two more furnaces in blast there. Those now in operation are running to their full capacity and making an excellent grade of iron.

Col. Grant Calls on McKinley.

CANTON, Ohio, Nov. 23.—Colonel
Fred, Grant was a guest at the McKinley home this afternoon, having come
here from Cleveland, where he spent
Sunday with National Chairman Hanna and other friends, He has been in
St. Louis attending the re-union of the
army of the Tennessee and merely stopped over in Cleveland and Canton on
his way home. He is a personal friend
of the McKinley's and has visited them
here on several occasions.

William Monawban, of Cleveland,
was another caller this afternoon, Col. Grant Calls on McKinley

## Bridge Jumper Sheedy.

Bridge Jumper Sheedy.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Nov. 23.—Kearney P. Sheedy, the well-known high diver, plunged from the Superior street viaduct into the river, eighty-one feet to-day. He was not injured and was probably not nearly so frightened as some persons among the big crowd who witnessed his dive. He landed with a splash, but arose immediately and was picked up by a small boat in readiness.

## A True Maxim.

Nothing succeeds like success, is a maxim well applied to Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup, for this famous remedy succeeds in curing every case of eroup, cough and cold which it undertakes, and to this alone is due its wonderful popularity. Mrs. E. W. Richards, 2214 E. Cumberland St., Philadelphia, Pa., states: "I have had Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup on my bureau for the last nine years, and have found it a certain and safe cure for croup. I have also found it efficacious in extreme membraneous croup, and would advise all mothers to use it." Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup costs only 25 cents, and you should bear in mind, that substitutes simply benefit the dealer's purse. Insist on getting Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup.

#### THAT AIR SHIP.

Inventor Confirms the Report of a

Trial Trip. SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 23 .- The incentor of the mysterious air ship which ventor of the mysterious air ship which has been puzzling local scientists and others for the past week is believed to be one, "Dr. E. H. Benjamin," an alleged dentist, who occupied rooms in an Elliott street lodging house for the past two years, but so far he has successfully evaded all attempts to discover his identity. His attorney, Collins, when seen yesterday, expressed something about the alleged inventor and his machine. He said:

"This morning the inventor came to my office in the Crocker building and told me that he had tested the merits of the ship in last slight's storm with the greatest satisfaction. The wind currents were very contrary and the test was one that tried the merits of the machine in the hardest possible manner, but it came out of the ordeal in good order, having breasted the storm as well as any bird.

"He started from the locality where the vessel is housed and flew over Alietraz and cut through the Golden Gate, skirling the Cliff house and returning by the same route across the bay. He hovered over Seal rocks for fully ten minutes and played his search light on the seals themselves. His intention is to make another trip this evening, probably over the same ground, running out as far as Sacramento.

A dispatch was received from Sacramento last night to the effect that hundreds of people there had again seen the mysterious meteor in the heavens, but as yet no one has been able to see the object sufficiently well to state definitely what it is.

#### PROTECTIVE TARIFF

In Germany Transforming it into a Mau-usacturing Country and Providing a WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 23,-The

rapid change of the German empire rapid change of the German empire from an agricultural to an industrial state is set forth by consul J. C. Monaghan in a report to the state department. He says everywhere one sees new mills in course of construction. In Chemnitz and thereabouts the manufacturing development is simply enormous. Nothing like it has ever been seen before. Hereafter says the consul, Germany will do all her manufacturing at home, buying only agricultural products and raw materials abroad. He clies the fact that Germany is no longer buying steel rails abroad, but is making them at home. The manufactured exports of Germany during the first nine months of the current year reach the enormous total of 18,765,000 tons, or an increase of three million tons over the entire year preceding. The consul says Germany must continue to look to the United States for cotton, corn and petroleum, and he says there is a less demand for wooden ware, carriages, shoes, typewriters, crackers, biscuits, etc. The importation of American textile fell off last year because of the textile depression in the United States. The consul says Germany continues to look to the United States as the best market in the world for textiles. from an agricultural to an industrial

#### AN EXTRA SESSION

Of Congress to be Called After the Inaugnration.

Express to-day says: There is going to be an extra session

There is going to be an extra session of Congress called within twenty days after the inauguration of President-elect McKinley, This information comes from Canton to-day in a most positive and direct way and its reliability cannot be questioned. It is the opinion of the President-elect that considerable legislation can be accomplished this winter and though newspaper dispatches disagree regarding his attitude toward the present agitation for the toward the present agitation for the Dingley bill, there is substantial authorment cannot be realized. He fears that ment cannot be realized. He fears that the business community would become demoralized should the bill be passed in the house again, only to be laid aside by the senate, and he does not share Senator Sherman's opinior, that the measure can pass the senate before the reorganization of that body on March 4.

## GOMEZ HEARD FROM.

Has 30,000 Men with Him—Has Hope of Victory. NEW YORK, Nov. 23.—Protracted silence of Commander-in-Chief Maxime Gomez of the Cuban army, which had caused considerable anxiety among Cubans here as to his safety, has at last been broken, and the Junta in this city has received a communication from

him.

In this communication, which comes from Lasvillas, Santa Clara province, General Gomez says that he has at his command 35,000 well equipped men, and that with these he intends to proceed to Havana province. The commander-in-chief writes that on account of the bad condition of the roads, it took this force of men twelve hours to took this force of men twelve hours to pass a certain point. General Gomez adds that he is in good health as are his men and has every hope of victory.

## GEN. LEE'S REPORT.

He Declines to Say What His Recommendations Arc. WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 23.—Con-

sul General Lee, accompanied by Mrs. Lee and his daughter, called at the state department, General Lee, when asked concerning the reports that he asked concerning the reports that he had recommended intervention by the United States in Cuba, replied that his report had been presented personally to Secretary Olney, and that unless Mr. Olney had given out information concerning it all reports as to its contents were mere conjecture, for, as far as he (Lee), was concerned, he had not spoken to anyone regarding it. When questioned directly as to the recommendations in his report General Lees aid positively that he must decline to discuss it in any shape or form, as his report was in the hands of Mr. Olney, who must make it public if it were to become public. General Lee said that he had not made up his mind exactly as to when he would return to Cuba.

# Reserve Agent. Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 23 .- The w ASHINGTON, B. C., Nov. 23.—The comptroller of the currency has ap-proved the Columbia National Bank, of Pittsburgh, in place of the Second Na-tional Bank of the same city, as a re-serve agent for the Traders' National Bank, of Clarksburg.

## Bucklen's Arnica Salve

Backlen's Arnica Salve.

The best salve in the world for cuts, bruises, zores, ulcers, salt rheum, fever sores, tetter, chapped hands, chilbiains, corns, and all skin cruptions, and postively cures piles, or no pay required, it is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Logan Drug Company.

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and stinging; most at hight; worse by
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clear, white and healthy. Its steat healing and curative powers are possessed, by
no other remedy. Ask your druggist for
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THE King of Pills is Beecham's-

#### "FINDINGS" IN A DRY TOWN.

The Thirsty Inhabitant Loses a Half Dol lar and Finds a Pint of Whisky

a dry town. It has been without a saloon for many years, and even the drug

stores do not sell a drop of liquor under any circumstances.

Naturally, I was considerably sur-prised the other day when I visited the barber and found its solliary occupant in a suspiciously genial mood.

"Cunnie," said the barber, "hev yer bin healt befo' this mawnin'?"

I replied that I had looked in a few

I replied that I had looked in a few minutes before, but had found no one

there,
"An' did yer see anythin' jubos-look-in' on de table?" asked the grinning

"An' did yer see anythin' jubos-lookin' on de table?" asked the grinning
darkey.
"No, I saw nothing," was my answer.
The barber, with a mysterious air,
drew a plut bottle from the drawer and
replaced it.
"Good cawn whisky," said he softly,
"cost me fifty cents."
"Did you send off for it?"
"No, suh. Got hit right heah."
"But that's against the law."
"Lor' bless yer, Cunnie, I nebber
bought hit."
"I thought you said it cost you fifty
cents?"
"Tat's so boss; but I'se a law-abidin'
citerzen. I jist lost a half-dollar, an'
foun' dat bottle."
While he was fathering my face I
asked a few questions, and the answers
threw a flood of light upon some of the
secrets of a dry town.
"Hit wuz dis way, Cunnie," said the
communicative barber: "Dar's a sartin
pusson in dis fown who's a man of high
prinserpool. Yer kin trust him in anythim'. Well, I seed him dis mawnin'
and stopped ter pass de time ob day
wid him.
"We wuz a talkin' bout gin'rul matters in gin'rul, when I tole him a little
story. I tole him how I passed a sart'in,
pusson one day, an' drapped a half dolrlar, an' hinted dat hit would be pow'ful,
funny if somebody picked hit up an'
slipped inter my shop an' left a pint
ob cawn on my table. He allowed dat
would be cur'ous, an' walked off. When
I went ter de shop, a little later, dar's
stood de bottle ob cawn on my table.
"Well, suh, when I tole dis story ter
a sartin pusson he winked at me an'
sorter smiled. Den I tole him dat I wuz
gwine ter try hit a'gin/ an' I drapped,
de moncy wid de remark dat I would
git back ter de shop in about half an
hour.
"Yer may believe hit or not, suh, but,

gwine ter try hit a'gin' an' I drapped, de money wid de remark dat I would git back ter do shop in about half an hour.

"Yer may believe hit or not, suh, buik when I come back dat money wuz gone, an 'dat sartin pusson wuz done gone, too. I went ter de shop, an' right dar on de table wuz a full bottle of whisky. Dat's de way I got'it, suh."

"So that certain person you speak of runs a blind tiger?"

"Oh, no suh. Notterfall. Hit wuz jist a coinserdunce. Fur all I know, dat man may not hev a drop ob liquor. I neber seed anybody pick up de money, an' I neber seed anybody pick up de money, an' I neber seed anybody cary de liquor ter my shop. I mout hev my spishuns, but spishuns ain't proof."

"I think," said I, "that your friend runs a great risk."

"Notterbit." was the answer; "de best people in dis town, black and white, has lost quarters and half dollars when he wuz standin' roun', and thar wuz nebber no trouble."

"In some towns he would be prosecuted and heavily fined."

cuted and heavily fined."
"Yas, suh; but not heah, whar prin-serpool runs too high fer sich low down ways ter be favored. Hit's a mighty good thing ter live in a place whar cherybody's law-abidin' an' full of prin-serpool." He was putting on a final coat of lath-

er when I remarked that prohibition was a failure if a blind tiger could be casily conducted under the noses of

was a failure if a blind tiger could be so easily conducted under the noses of the authorities.

"Ise afcared, boss," said the cautious barber, "dat yer misunderstan's me. De little coniserdunces I tole ye about don't happen ebbry day, nor to ebbrybody. Hit's only our best citerzens, suh, who hev de good luck ter hev sich 'sperunces. A stranger mout talk all day befo' dat sartin pusson about bein'thirsty, an' drap his half dollar, an' dat would be de last ob hit. He would nebber find no bottle, an' he would nebber find no bottle, an' he would nebber git no satisfackshun. Yer see, suh, in dis community prinserpool runs high, and de people won't stan' no sort ob meanness."

"Are you a prohibitionist?"

"Sartinly, I is. All de best people is. We don't want no saloons. When we had 'em dat berber tudder end ob town uster git fightin' drunk an' beat me up ebbry Saturday night. But now he can't git no liquor, unless he sends off fur it. Yer see, he's a man ob no priserpool, an' is not law-abidin'."

When I looked into the matter I found that many of the citizens of Cottonville shared the barber's views. Every man with a red nose was in favor of prohibiting the sale of liquor to his neighbor.

IN these days of disappoinment it is a

IN these days of disappoinment it is a gratification to know that one can buy a bottle of Salvation Oil for 25 cents.

Try Electric Bitters as a remedy for your troubles? If not, get a bottle now and get relief. This medicine has been found to be peculiarly adapted to the relief and cure of all Female Complaints, exerting a wonderful direct influence in giving strength and tone to the organs. If you have influence in giving strength and tone to the organs. If you have Loss of Ap-petitic, Constipation, Headache, Faint-ing Spells, or are Nervous, Sleepless, Excitable, Melancholy or troubled with Dizzy Spells, Electric Bitters is the medicine you need. Health and Strength are guaranteed by its use. Fifty cents and \$100 at Logan Drug Company's Drug Store.

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